

Thursday 25th March Shared reading

Barack Obama

Barack Hussein Obama was born on 4th August, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Obama's parents separated when he was only two years old. Obama Senior returned to Kenya in 1965. In 1966, Barack's mother remarried and the family moved to Indonesia. Several incidents in Indonesia left Barack's mother afraid for her son's safety and education so, at the age of ten, he was sent back to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents.

His mother and half-sister later joined them. While living with his grandparents, Obama was given a place in a highly regarded Punahou Academy, where he excelled in basketball. As one of only three non-white students at the school, Obama became conscious of racism and what it meant to be an African-American. He later described how he struggled to reconcile other people's perceptions of his multiracial heritage with his own sense of himself.



'I began to notice there was nobody like me in the Christmas catalogues – and that Santa was a white man,' he said.

Obama attended Columbia University and then went to Law School and chose to represent victims of housing and employment discrimination. Eventually he was elected to the Illinois state senate and in 2008 he became President. He was the 44th President of the United States of America and the first African-American ever elected to that position.

Retrieval

- a. Who was Barack sent to live with in Hawaii?
- b. When he became a lawyer, who did Barack help out?

Vocabulary

c. Eventually, he was elected to the Illinois state senate

Which of these phrases means the same as 'elected'? Tick it.

To study to represent to be voted for

Inference

D How do you feel his grandparents must feel when he was elected?

f. Why do you think people wanted him to be the President?

Perception



How someone is
thought of